

Middle Canyon Land Use Advisory Committee (MCLUAC)
Minutes from September 28th, 2021 Meeting
Location: West Glacier Elementary School

Call to Order: 6:05 p.m.

Committee Members:

- Sharon Demeester (not present) 12/31/21
- Aubrie Loroña 12/31/22
- Lexi Woods 12/31/23
- Victoria Lee 12/31/23
- Joe Hoff 12/31/23

Approval of Agenda for September 28th, 2021 MCLUAC Meeting

- Lexi motioned to approve the agenda. Aubrie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of August 31st, 2021 minutes as amended

- The following edits were made to the August 31st, 2021 minutes: (1) corrected the spelling to Gary Rodgers last name and (2) Sharon Bengston was removed from the Public Attendees. Lexi motioned to approve the August 31st, 2021 minutes. Victoria seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Discussion and Public Comment:

- West Glacier Vision Plan (WGVP)
 - Mary T. McClelland – the WGVP was approved to be a part of a Strategic Work Plan that the Flathead County reviews via a Workshop. The Workshop date is TBD (anticipating it will be in a couple months; we're approximately 3rd in line). The draft Vision Plan is still up on the website. The Action Plan has since been removed due to confusion (verbiage). The WGVP committee members are continuing one on one conversations within the community. They'd like to circulate a narrative/small paragraph to give everyone to further inform the public about the Vision Plan and upcoming Workshop. The goal is to disseminate the information by the end of October. Prior to the Workshop, we will be creating a Community Task Force to meet with the interim Director Eric Mack; we want to set ourselves up for success. Mary will keep everyone informed when the workshop will be once she has been given the exact date. Montana Code Annotated (MCA) and the County Growth Plan for Flathead County will be referenced/followed.
 - Elizabeth Blacker - This plan (the WGVP) was a year in the making and it was sidelined very quickly. I would like to see a County representative present at these meetings. Elizabeth strongly urges the board to reach out to the Flathead County and put some pressure on them to be more involved in everything we've been doing.
- WG Historical Gateway Project (WGHGP)

- Sharon Bengston – We are still moving forward with the footpath, overpass, and landscape around the entrance to West Glacier Village. However, nothing new has been accomplished since about August. For the overpass project, we've contacted Senator Steve Daines, Senator Jon Tester, U.S. Representative Matt Rosendale and a few of our local people. Jon Tester's office put us in contact with Matt Jones (Executive Director, Public Affairs at BNSF Railway) and we will reach out again until we make positive contact. As of today, we have not heard back from BNSF and have only been able to leave messages with Senator Daines office. Sharon Bengston and Gary Rodgers want to start an "interest group."
- Gary Rodgers – we need to get BNSF on as an ally, not an adversary. Doug Mitchell (Executive Director, Glacier National Park Conservancy) will be a good resource in helping to arrange a meeting with BNSF. Gary talked to Doug today before the meeting and he's optimistic.
- Sharon Bengston – rather than focus on landscaping around the West Glacier entrance, we'd like to concentrate on the surrounding vegetation.
- Mary T McClelland – as far as a landscaping update goes, we plan to revise our plan a little. We'd like to focus our efforts on the West side of the overpass this next spring. Then, once more funding becomes available, we'll focus our efforts on the East side of the overpass. In doing this, we will be able to decrease our budget by approximately \$16,000.
- Wildfire Season
 - Mary T McClelland – Monica will be starting workshops earlier next year.
 - Onno Wieringa – if you contact the DNRC, they will come out and do a fire walk through of your property. I had it done and he learned a lot. The name of the individual that I used was Ernie. There are grants for clearance of trees.
 - Mary T McClelland – Monica, Mary, and a few others had a fire assessment done as well and they thought it to be greatly beneficial too. Also, regarding the Lake 5 Logging Project, they are supposed to do more assessments and then get to work.
- Communications: Broadband Working Group
 - Gary Rodgers - I've asked Pursuit's IT Department for assistance on this. The challenge is that there is no immediate solution; we're looking at 2022. We'd like to trench fiber to the school but they would not be able to get service until summer 2022. I will keep working it from that angle: info on cost, timing, etc. Ultimate solution is to get the fiber trenched.
- Glacier Country Tourism (GCT)
 - Aubrie Loroña – marketing Glacier Country isn't working. A problem is the funding and how it is worked. There is a Destination Stewardship Plan – what does the message look like, what is our new vision plan for Glacier Country Tourism, etc. If you emails or other communication come across from GCT, please respond and participate. The overall goal is to help allocate the funding.
- Wild & Scenic River Plan
 - Work in progress, nothing new to add.
- Transportation
 - The MDT had a camera in West Glacier and in the Park; they have a mini report to show the use of traffic lights. The University of Montana is still conducting their recording study; they have a lot of years to compare.
- Oil Safe Flathead Update

- Onno – Sarah Lundstrum, Trout Unlimited, Flathead Lakers, and the National Park Conservation Association (NPCA) have helped bring everything back to life. We have the ball rolling into a unified effort. We're working on updating the website now.

Adjournment 7:02 p.m.

Public Attendees

Mary T. McClelland
Mike Kopitzke
Onno Wieringa
Sharon Bengston
Jean Pinski
Lee Pinski
Gary Rodgers
Susie Dietz
Elizabeth Blacker

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How to contact the Middle Canyon Land Use Committee (MCLUAC)

All correspondence goes to the Flathead Planning Office initially. Concerns, complaints or questions should be sent to Planning.zoning@flathead.mt.gov; the office will respond within 24 hours.

Compliance complaints can be submitted by Middle Canyon residents by completing the compliant form provided online, attached to an email to the Planning.zoning@flathead.mt.gov office. Forms are also available at the Flathead County Planning and Zoning Office, 40-11th Street W, Kalispell MT

Code compliance web page:

https://flathead.mt.gov/planning_zoning/codecompliance.php

Complaint violation form:

https://flathead.mt.gov/planning_zoning/documents/ComplaintFormupdated12.19.16.pdf